

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for processing and representing error messages within a computer-aided design environment is described. The present invention allows error/warning information to be stored in a central storage location by the function in

5 which the error/warning causing fault occurs. The function then returns a result indicating that the function did not perform as expected. The calling function does not add an error/warning message of its own when returning, if necessary, to another calling function. Thus, only a single warning/error message can be stored and used for reporting the fault that caused the error/warning. In one embodiment, a hierarchical graphical  
10 error/warning log provides varying levels of error/warning information in response to user input.